

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 AM (CST), Thursday January 28, 2021

GoToMeeting Conference Call

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Keith Miller (Chair)	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2023	Yes
Jeff Holste (Vice-Chair)	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Berry Bortz	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Kendal Francis	Great Bend, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Craig Crossette	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2023	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	No
Stephanie Royer	La Crosse, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	Yes
Isaac Aberson	Jetmore, KS	Watershed Protection	2023	Yes
Cammie Vaupel	St. John, KS	Commerce/Industry 2	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Matt Unruch	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Wade Kleven	KDHE

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by RAC Chair Calvin Burke. All present provided self-introductions.
- II. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members
- III. **Review of November 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members.
- IV. **Regional Activities**
 - a. **RAC Goals & Actions Plan Update Recommendations:** RAC members continued discussions from their previous meeting on updates to the group's Goals & Actions Plan. The goals were agreed upon last week but the actions still needed to be address. The Chair expressed that he with the help of Keadron Pearson (KWO) had gone in and drafted a condensed version of the previous actions for the committee's consideration. Orrin Feril made the motion to accept the draft actions with edits to be incorporated with the RAC's draft goals. The motion was seconded by Berry Bortz. No discussion was had and the motion passed.

V. Other Business

a. **Agency Reports:**

- i. Jeff Lanterman, KDA-DWR – Reported that March 1st was the deadline to submit annual water reports. Also reported that they are still appointment only.
- ii. Orrin Feril, GMD5 – Reported on receipt regional events.
- iii. Wade Kleven, KDHE – Reported that they would be hiring an intern to help with HAB inspections.
- iv. Matt Unruch, KWO – Reported on receipt legislative and budget updates.

b. **Public Comments:** None

c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** None

d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** None

e. **Future Meetings:**

- i. Water in Kansas Webinar Series; FEWTures Project: Economic Feasibility of Ammonia Production and Water Treatment Using Locally Produced Wind Energy; February 11
- ii. GMD5 Board Meeting: February 18
- iii. Ogallala Aquifer Summit: February 24-25
- iv. Governor's Water Conference: November 16-18

The meeting ended at 10:57 AM.

Great Bend Prairie RAC- Draft Revised Goals & Actions Plan (01/28/2021)

Goal #1: Achieve water use sustainability within the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area that includes a reasonable raising or lowering of the water table based on average weather conditions.

Action Steps

Short-term Actions

- I. Identify existing voluntary conservation programs and determine if new incentivized conservation programs are needed to compliment current programs.
- II. Work with the appropriate agencies to ensure that cost-shares are current and economically competitive.
- III. Hold stakeholder meetings in conjunction with the appropriate agencies to inform the public about the various programs available.

Long-term Actions

- I. Utilize the KDAMOD* to determine rate of withdrawal from the aquifer from all uses (irrigation, industrial, evapotranspiration, municipal, etc.) versus the rate of recharge to the aquifer from all sources (precipitation, streambank, infiltration, etc.) for the GBP RAC area.
- II. Compile the model data into presentation materials for area stakeholder groups/agencies to identify appropriate management units for further analysis with BBGMDMOD*. This data will analyze the rate of depletion spatially across the area to assist with prioritization of projects and funding.
- III. Coordinate with state agencies & GMD#5 to assess and implement appropriate management controls to bring areas of concern into balance. “

* The Big Bend Groundwater Management District high-resolution hydrologic model (BBGMDMOD) was initially created with seven layers, each representing a geologic formation below the ground surface allowing for analysis of water movement between the layers. KDA-DWR unified the seven layers of the BBGMDMOD to create the KDAMOD for quick water quantity assessments for the region. Both variants are based on the same datasets. BBGMDMOD can track water quality between the geologic formations.

Goal #2: Developed for Municipalities and Rural Water Districts- Maintain annual training funds of 15% from Clean Water Drinking Fee and increase technical training support to Public Water Supply (PWS) systems to enhance new technology and increase water efficiently and effectively, thus reducing water loss. Utilize available municipal/residential/commercial “LAWN” irrigation training programs provided by the Irrigation Association.

Actions Steps

- I. Work with state agencies, cities, rural water districts, and public water suppliers to ensure that the Clean Water Drinking Fee is being appropriately carried out.
- II. Continue to provide a minimum of 15% and increase more (up to 30%) of Clean Drinking Water Fee for technical assistance by the Kansas Rural Water Association for Public Water Suppliers.
- III. Work with Irrigation Associations to develop free training opportunities for LAWN irrigators and landscapers.

Goal #3: Enhance the monitoring of poor quality water to stop and reverse further contamination of fresh water sources. Areas of concern include regions which have salt water disposal lines, disposal wells, high nitrate levels, and areas with high salt sources to ensure that contamination of fresh water sources does not continue to occur.

Action Steps

- I. Establish a program if a problem is observed to ensure the problem does not get worse.
- II. Start using mapping techniques and disposal line maintenance and replacement to ensure this goal is met.
- III. Evaluate extent of KDHE surface water monitoring network in petroleum producing areas and areas with high salt sources within Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area.
 - a. Work with KDHE to modify surface water monitoring network if evaluation finds that necessary.
- IV. Develop inventory of current active and legacy salt water disposal lines in Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area.
- V. Continue programs to evaluate current extent of salt water disposal well inventory.
- VI. Evaluate effectiveness of current spill and escape notification requirements.
 - a. Work with KCC to modify current spill and escape notification requirements if evaluation finds that necessary.
- VII. For all Sensitive Groundwater Areas in the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area:
 - a. Check the integrity of active and known legacy disposal systems.
 - b. Investigate the integrity of plugged abandoned wells suspected of leaking.
 - c. Continued programs to conduct Mechanical Integrity Tests on all injection or disposal wells.
 - d. Develop a routine groundwater quality program to help determine extent and sources of contamination.
- VI. Educate public in Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area about causes and trends of salinity and nitrate issues.

Goal #4: Initiate research and development of alternative feed sources and less water-intensive crops within the Great Bend Prairie Planning Region. Technology transfer from this research would have benefits in areas of Kansas where water is not available for production. Multiple research programs such as plant breeding and livestock feeding should be pursued.

Action Steps

- I. Achieve large scale feeding trials by 2025.
- II. Coordinate with the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) to improved adoptability of feed wheat, along with other alternative crops, through marketing, commodity segregation, research and education as stated within the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

- III. Create a program to be able to roll out small and large scale feeding trials
- IV. Find several feedlots to help roll out program
- V. Utilize membership of stakeholder groups to solicit interest
- VI. Coordinate with KDA to implement demonstration plots for yield evaluation.
- VII. Coordinate with KDA to develop markets for feed wheat and other alternative crops for use feed sources.

Goal #5: Work towards sustainability of watersheds so that flood control capacity is maintained while maintaining streamflow to meet downstream water needs. Progress towards sustainability would be to have 50% of the drainage area within watershed districts controlled by watershed structures by 2065. Best available information/data will be evaluated every 10 years to track progress towards meeting this goal.

Action Steps

- I. Determine percent controlled by watershed structures within watershed districts in Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area.
- II. Work with landowners to promote watershed dams and the important role they have in the community and environment.
- III. Work with watershed boards and community leaders.
- IV. Determine groundwater recharge potential of watershed structures through modeling efforts.
- V. Work with watershed districts to determine costs (needs inventory) associated with building additional structures leading up to 50% of drainage area within districts controlled by structures.
- VI. Evaluate the potential of a Multipurpose Small Lake through KDA-DOC in the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area.